

# The White House: The Global Messenger

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

-----

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

*All Times EDT/ Subject to Change*

10:55 a.m. -- President Bush remarks - Indianapolis, Ind.

1 p.m. -- State Department Briefing

-----

## KEY POINTS FROM THE PRESIDENT: PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, 5/9/03

- A dictator in Iraq has been removed from power, reformers in the Middle East are gaining influence, and the momentum of freedom is growing. The United States will seize this moment for the sake of peace.
- The Middle East presents many obstacles to the advance of freedom. America is working with governments and reformers to strengthen ties through our Middle East partnership initiative, and pursuing an agenda of economic, political, and social progress.
- Now with a liberated Iraq, with new leadership for the Palestinian people, with efforts of leaders like President Mubarak and Crown Prince Abdallah, the hope of peace is renewed.
- All sides of the conflict have duties. The Palestinian people must take concrete steps to crack down on terror, and continue on a path of peace, reform and democracy.
- Israel must take tangible steps now to ease the suffering of the Palestinians and to show respect for their dignity.
- As progress is made toward peace, Israel must stop settlement activity in the occupied territories. Arab nations must fight terror in all forms, and recognize and state once and for all: Israel has a right to exist as a Jewish state at peace with its neighbors.
- We're determined to help build a Middle East that grows in hope instead of resentment. Because of the ideals and resolve of this nation, we will not live in an age of terror, but in an age of liberty.

-----

## THE LATEST ON WMD

- President Bush has made identifying and eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction a top priority.
- We've had a major development in finding the biological weapons lab, which looks like the sketch that Secretary Powell talked about at the United Nations. There will be other breakthroughs.
- The Coalition is taking a comprehensive approach by:
  - Obtaining the cooperation of key Iraqi personnel;
  - Accessing and assessing possible sites; and
  - Obtaining and examining key documents and computers.

- A new team working on weapons discovery and other surveys is entering Iraq to take advantage of the documentation and interviews with Iraqi personnel. This long-planned rotation enhances our WMD verification program. This team is larger and will have more experience in document exploitation, intelligence, and other key elements.
- The Iraqi regime devised many concealment and deception tools. Iraq's "just-in-time inventory" allowed them to put together weapons at the last moment. It was inspections-proof.
- They embedded as much as they could in the "dual-use infrastructure," allowing them - for example - to make as much as 50 percent more chlorine than needed. The making of chlorine looks perfectly innocent, but it is a precursor for some chemical weapons.

- - - - -

## LIBERATION UPDATE

*The voices of freedom, now heard across Iraq*

For more reactions to Operation Iraqi Freedom, please visit "Liberation Update" at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/liberation>

\*\*\*

“All my life I have been escaping. So I have dreamed of freedom, of traveling abroad, of feeling life the way all young people do. Maybe now I will.” -- **Mohammed Khadum, in Baghdad, Washington Post, 5/8/03**

- - - - -

The White House  
Office of Global Communications

For more information, please log on to: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/ogc>

END